

A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed January 3, 1931

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SHOWERS OF BIRDS

A thunderstorm, accompanied by heavy rain, occurred at the Black Sea port of Burgas, Bulgaria, during the night of September 24-25, 1930. A great flock of partridges was caught in the storm and quantities of the birds fell exhausted in the streets, where they were easily caught. Roast partridge was the prevailing dish all over town the day following.

This event was not without precedent. In the year 1896 American newspapers published the following report from Baton Rouge, the capital city of Louisiana:

"On Friday morning last early risers witnessed a peculiar sight in the shape of a shower of birds that fell from a clear sky, literally cluttering the streets of the city. There were wild ducks, catbirds, woodpeckers and many birds of strange plumage, some of them resembling canaries, but all dead, falling in heaps along the thoroughfares. The most plausible theory as to the strange wind-fall is that the birds were driven inland by the recent storm on the Florida coast, the force of the current of air and the sudden change of temperature causing death to many of the feathered creatures when they reached Baton Rouge."

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